

# TOKEN TOPICS

of the  
**CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION of TOKEN COLLECTORS**

January, 1977  
Issue #65

John M. Barnes  
Editor

**JANUARY MEETING:** For the first time since 1975, your association will be meeting at the home of our esteemed member, Robert Ritterband. The meeting will gather at 1:30 PM on Sunday, January 16, 1976. Bob lives at 6576 Colgate Avenue, Los Angeles, in the West Wilshire District. For the benefit of any very welcome newcomers, please be advised that Colgate runs parallel to Wilshire Blvd., but about a half mile north. The house is approximately half way between Fairfax Avenue and La Cienaga Blvd. How about starting the New Year with a good, big turnout? Remember: the trading at CATC is the best in Southern California! Door prize drawing, too.

**PRESIDENT'S EDITORIAL:** I wish all of you a Happy New Year! I am still around to greet you in print because the attending membership relected me as President-Editor for the year 1977. One year ago I wrote an editorial asking all of you to contribute to Token Topics any item that you wished to see in print, and wish to thank people like Elaine Willahan, Bob Ritterband, and Bob Carter for their articles. Now, good people, how about keeping it up? The President wants to hear what you have to say-and publish it-because it's your association.

It is, at least to me, evident that anyone running for President should have a platform-goals, that is. My platform, which so far has not appeared in print, consisted of two elements: 1. Regular, brief educational programs at each meeting. 2. Expansion of the membership. With regard to the first goal, I have seen some really fine presentations in 1976. With regard to the second goal, I am disappointed. We have been sending out our specially designed recruiting letter to prospective new members in the Los Angeles area, but have received virtually no response. Does anyone have any ideas? Is it possible, for instance, that each one of you could personally recruit a new member? How are we going to get the word to other collectors about the good things we have? Please let me know...anything you have to say would be appreciated.

**NOVEMBER MINUTES:** The November meeting was held at the home of Elaine Willahan in Los Angeles. Elaine, as usual laid out all of her baked goodies-surely the tastiest around. Bob Carter gave a good historical presentation and display on the topic of U. S. Fractional Currency. He explained that metallic currency disappeared from circulation shortly after the beginning of the Civil War. The gap was shortly filled by postage stamps in envelopes and circular holders (embossed like tokens). The latter were an inspiration to the Federal Government to issue the first "postal Currency"-in denominations related to stamps. The issue of these lovely little notes lasted until the late 1870's... the point at which the U. S. Government was able to resume redemption of its paper currency with gold and silver, and there was no longer reason to hoard coin.

Present at our 119th meeting were: Stephen Alpert, Roland Atwood, John Barnes, Virginia Barnes, Robert Carter, Andy Crusen, Les Hawthorne, Robert Kubach, Phillip Pearson, Edrick Miller, Claire Smith, F. Gordon Smith, Ken Smith, George Ticknor, Paul Thompson, Bill Whalen, Sue Whalen, and Elaine Willahan.

**DUES AGAIN:** Payment of the quota (as Latins term it) for 1977 is definitely due. Secretary Elaine Willahan gratefully accepts your \$2.00!

**ELECTION RESULTS:** At the November meeting, elections of officers for 1977 were held. The attending membership voted to return all of the prior year's officers to office. These consist of: President-John M. Barnes; Vice-President-Robert Carter; Treasurer-Andy Crusen; Secretary-Elaine Willahan; Immediate Past President Board Member-Robert Ritterband.

**NASC:** I have renewed CATC'S membership in the Numismatic Association of Southern California for 1977 at the modest cost of \$3.00. I feel that contact with this large regional organization will be beneficial to our association, particularly with regard to the publicity we receive. As everyone knows, the prime duty of NASC is to put on a large convention each February. Anyone willing to consider the possibility of a club display of tokens at one of these conventions? One more note: with the renewal of our membership, a delegate from CATC to NASC was requested. Since your president also has the required NASC membership to be a delegate, he appointed himself as the delegate.

**HARD TIMES TOKENS:** I first became heavily involved with this old and classic series when I purchased a small group, all in nice condition, at a convention auction of the 1950's at an average price of about fourteen cents each. At the time-and now-it seemed like a good bargain for any tokens of that age. I have been adding to my collection ever since, but have reached the point where new acquisitions are very infrequent....and sometimes quite expensive. The history of the series was succinctly explained by A. Z. Reed in the Standard Catalogue of United States Coins and Tokens, Wayte Raymond, Editor, 1942 Edition. In general, the pieces with political sentiment document the (successful) efforts of President Andrew Jackson to discontinue the deposit of public funds in the Bank of the United States, and further, to establish the independent sub-treasury system to contain the funds. President Martin Van Buren carried on Jackson's fiscal policies after Jackson left office. This writer isn't exactly certain why a flood of copper tokens appeared to comment on this hot political issue (Reed is somewhat unclear about this point), but the turbulent political climate was apparently responsible for hoarding and scarcity of circulating coin. As might be expected, emergency issues came on the scene-things like private issue "shinplasters" and copper tokens. The scarcity of official circulating coin which led to these private issues and the general economic woes of the time has led to the tag "Hard Times". It does seem reasonable that many of the tokens would comment on the political situation, but your editor believes that this was a device to ensure that the pieces could be issued anonymously. The pieces were, of course, a substitute for the large cents of the time; and it is probable that they were just as short in weight as the private mints could make them. It was profitable to put them in circulation! An exception to anonymous issue was the many store cards of the 1832-1844 period, which are really part of a very large issue of such pieces made between 1800 and 1860. Virtually none of the store cards carry any denomination, and it is likely that the issuers willingly provided circulating medium without any guarantee of its value. At the end of the nineteenth century, the famous cataloger Lyman H. Low developed his listing of Hard Times Tokens, reprints of which are still available for \$1.00, issued by Hewitt's Numismatic Information Series with modern price list which is now about a decade out of date. Low included all varieties of the purely political items, then went on to list all merchants' pieces which he believed to be included within the era. His criteria for listing are (to me, at least) a little vague, but no one has come up with anything better. What strange things we find when examining the list! For instance Low 129 is a transportation token (Mass 115 A), which just happens to bear the date 1837. There is no apparent reference to politics and no apparent use as currency. There is an 1837 maverick token (Low 139) with an undeserved price tag of \$75.00. Then, too there are all of the Feuchtwanger tokens, which are probably experimental in nature...all dated 1837. Anyhow, it's a great series to collect if a little confusing. Final Note: Professor Kappen advises he has written a book on the series, but I have not been able to see a copy. When I do, I shall say a few words about it in this paper.

# TOKEN TOPICS

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**CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION of TOKEN COLLECTORS**

March, 1977  
Issue #66

JOHN M. BARNES  
Editor

**MARCH MEETING:** As is traditional for this meeting, our March gathering will be held at the interesting home of our secretary, Mrs. Elaine Willahan, 516 West 99th Street, Los Angeles, California 90044. The meeting date is Sunday, March 20; the doors are expected to open at about 1:30 PM. For anyone who hasn't been there before: use the Century Blvd. offramp from the Harbor Freeway; Elaine's house is just to the west of the freeway. Not only is Elaine's home interesting; her baking is almost a collector's item..seems almost a shame to eat anything that good.

**LAST CALL FOR DUES:** Elaine hasn't reported delinquencies as of the date I write this issue, but I know someone out there hasn't paid yet for 1977. For anyone who hasn't paid yet, I regret to say that this will be the last issue to be mailed to you. The best thing to do if you are in such a situation is to immediately enclose Two Dollars (\$2.00) in an envelope with your name and return address and immediately send same to secretary Elaine Willahan at her address shown above. Yes, we want you with us!

**JANUARY MINUTES:** Our meeting was held at the home of Bob Ritterband on January 16, 1977. Members attending were: Stephen Alpert, Roland Atwood, John Barnes, Virginia Barnes, Andy Crusen, Les Hawthorne, Robert Kubach, Arthur Lee, Phillip Pearson, Robert Ritterband, Ken Smith, Kirk Smith, and Elaine Willahan. Guests present were: Carolyn Lee, Elinor Smith, and Molly Ritterband. Molly gave all of us that good cake and fruit combination which always tastes so good after an exhausting session of trading. Your editor gave a short presentation on United States Coinage of the Philippines, illustrated by a few specimens of the exquisite designs of the regular issue coinage by Filipino Melicio Figueroa. Mention was made of the forgotten United States mint: Manila, which made many millions of coins before its destruction in World War II. It should be mentioned that all Philippines coins struck from 1903 through 1945 are United States (colonial) coins, and will probably someday achieve popularity-and high prices-among US collectors. They are still bargains today.

**NOSTALGIA SECTION:** As we approach the twentieth anniversary of CATC in July Ken Smith has taken it upon himself to send your Editor a copy of Page 56 of the July, 1957 FAREBOX, which, in a news release signed by acting Secretary Emzy L. Thompson, announced that a "New Transportation Token Club (had been) Formed in California". At 8:00 PM on Thursday evening, July 11, 1957, five members of the AVA met at the Thompson home and formed the "California Vecturist Association". Dues were a crippling \$1.00 for two years, and the group, in its infancy, was already bidding for the 1958 AVA Convention. Roland Atwood was acting president, Edward Cutler was acting vice-president, Edrick Miller was acting treasurer, and Ken Smith was the lone nonofficer member. Today only Atwood, Miller, and Smith are still living...and all three are still active members. Roland Atwood went on to serve two terms as President, followed by second President Smith, who also served two terms. Come July, we should have an appropriate birthday celebration!

NEW MEMBER: We're proud to welcome San Bernardino dealer Fred Coops into membership in CATC. Your Editor has spent the better part of a decade in Fred's store looking for coins and tokens, and has enjoyed every minute. Here's hoping Fred will come to see us one Sunday.

TRANSPORTATION TOKEN DIE VARIETIES: A number of token collectors have a deep interest in die varieties, and work diligently on illustrated lists of same. Our club has been asked to supply any details also, but the members usually at meetings seem to have little information to offer on this subject. Possibly some of the out-of-town members have more to say and can help out. If so, please drop a line to Secretary Willahan, so she can put you in touch with Ralph Hinds, Syd Joseph, and others active in this field.

ARIZONA: Bob Ritterband especially mentioned in a recent letter a ten-page illustrated article on Arizona trade tokens in the February, 1977 issue of ARIZONA HIGHWAYS. Sounds interesting.

HARD TIMES TOKENS POST SCRIPT: I received a good letter from author Charles Kappen last month, in which he added information to my bibliography of Hard Times Tokens in the last issue of Token Topics. As a devoted collector of this series in the 1950's, Mr. Kappen noticed that reference works which had been published at the turn of the century were too expensive for the usual collector of this relatively inexpensive group of tokens. Therefore, in 1955, he reprinted four items: Lyman Low's Hard Times Tokens, Second Edition, 1900; Low's Supplement To Hard Times Tokens, 1906; William F. Dunham's "Easy Finding List", 1910; and Edgar H. Adams' Photographic Plates of Hard Times Tokens. Mr. Kappen added the preface and 1955 prices to round out his work, and sold it for \$7.50 per copy. Needless to say, it isn't available for the issue price any longer, and if anyone out there has a copy your editor would love to pay a good premium for it.

NEVADA TOKENS-A VISIT WITH BILL WRIGHT: Your Editor and wife Virginia made their twice-yearly pilgrimage to Las Vegas in February of this year (the other half is to be made in October with my card-shark cousin). I was particularly looking forward to last month's visit, for I had made an appointment to visit with Mr. W. V. Wright, publisher of the Las Vegas Review-Journal and devotee of everything that is Nevada. Bill modestly says that he is not a native of Nevada, but has been there some thirty five years, long enough to get to know the place. An expansive and interesting man, Bill was kind enough to give us three hours so that we might view his extensive Nevada trade token collection. Unfortunately, it turned out that Bill has at least five major Nevadiana collections that we wanted to see...things like 19th century Nevada railroad passes, Nevada bottles, Nevada hunting licenses, Nevada Stock Certificates....so we had to skimp on some things to enjoy others more thoroughly. Your Editor did get to see every one of what Bill describes as the second largest collection of Nevada trade tokens in existence-some eight hundred in all-neatly arranged for viewing. Needless to say, my tiny collection contained nothing that Bill hadn't seen. We had plenty of questions to ask, such as whether a catalog is being written (yes) and whether there really are whore-house tokens (no). The latter, according to Bill, are a latter day invention and never existed in frontier Nevada, or anywhere else, for that matter. Bill advised that this fact is well documented in the Arizona Highways article mentioned above. He said many Nevada tokens were used for drinks in such places, but never for love! Bill is an expert on relative rarity of Nevada trade tokens, and we spent some time in discussion of this topic. Perhaps CATC will have the honor of a visit from Bill some day soon.

# TOKEN TOPICS

May, 1977  
Issue #67

of the  
**CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION of TOKEN COLLECTORS**

John M. Barnes  
Editor

**MAY MEETING:** In what appears to be a developing tradition, your association is again going to meet at the home of John and Virginia Barnes, located at 4021 Pacheco Drive, Sherman Oaks. Virginia and I hope that you will begin to arrive at about 1:30 PM on Sunday, May 15, 1977. Be sure to bring an interesting trade check for your president to buy!

For the benefit of anyone who has not previously visited our home, and anyone else who might get lost, directions to our place follow: From northbound San Diego Freeway, use Ventura Blvd. off-ramp to Sepulveda Blvd. Return back on Sepulveda about three blocks to Valley Vista and make a left turn. Wind around on Valley Vista for about three quarters of a mile, then turn right on to Stone Canyon. Go about one block, then turn right on Pacheco Drive and proceed another block to our house. If you are coming in from the west-bound Ventura Freeway, use the Van Nuys Blvd. off-ramp, and turn left, proceeding about four blocks to Ventura Blvd. Turn right on Ventura and go about six blocks to Kester Ave., and make a left turn on Kester. Continue south on Kester about one half mile to Valley Vista. Turn right on Valley Vista, then left onto Stone Canyon, then right on to Pacheco as described. If, after spending two hours to interpret the above instructions, you still find that you are lost, telephone 783-6745 and the rescue squad will insure that you receive the keg of brandy traditionally sent to alpine explorers.

Regarding the program: Les Hawthorne has promised to show his slides on his trip to Australia, and hopefully also tell us of his token experiences while there. Les probably knows more about Australian transportation tokens and passes than anyone in the world....so don't miss this one.

**MARCH MINUTES:** The March meeting was held at the combination home/museum of Elaine Willahan in south central Los Angeles. Yes, she did serve the chocolate dessert so beloved by your editor, as well as a great selection of other goodies. Members present were Roland Atwood, Frank Roselinsky, Robert Carter, Andrew Crusen, Les Hawthorne, Steve Alpert, Larry Elman, Elaine Willahan, Ken Smith, John Barnes, Virginia Barnes, and Bob Kubach. The association also welcomed guest Eleanor Smith. As with any meeting at Elaine's home, it was enjoyed by all.

**AVA CONVENTION:** I'm just warming up on the subject of the August convention in Carson City, Nevada. I sure can't imagine a more appropriate place for such a gathering, whether speaking from the viewpoint of the numismatist (Carson City Mint), transportation enthusiast (several historic railroads), token collector (many old and new ones issued in the area), or lover of the great outdoors (the Sierra). CATC members with whom I have spoken all seem to be going, and I do hope that those of you who live too far away to attend our meetings regularly will be going to the convention too. When I receive promotional material I shall issue another reminder in Token Topics, certainly in the next issue.

**CATALINA VISIT:** In mid-April Virginia and I joined one of Bob Ritterband's guided tours to Avalon, Catalina Island in the company of a group of professional printers. Among glass-bottom boat rides, picnics, dinners, and bus rides; all part of the tour; we found no time to be bored!

Naturally, I searched for coin stores, and was surprised to find one that had been open for only two weeks. Not much stock there, but a pleasant occasion. Avalon has a long and very interesting history which spans the big token-issuing time at the turn of the century. Since Avalon was a resort area then, with a number of restaurants, bars, and hotels, it does have a fair number of tokens attributed to it. Thus far Album (Catalog of California Trade Tokens) has listed six different old ones, all rare; plus two modern tokens, both desireable. I have recently seen one of the old tokens sell at auction for a price in excess of \$40.00! I am fortunate to have one old one in my collection..which cost me all of \$1.90 from a San Diego dealer three years ago. This is Album#LA 040 D: Island Buffet/B. Rosin Prop./ Avalon, Cat. Isl. Good for/ONE/Drink. I thought of this piece when we visited the Victorian-style Glenmore Hotel, and wondered where the Island Buffet had been. Maybe I will have to return to Avalon to find out!

THE EDITOR AS RESEARCHER: When one is an editor, as I am, it is necessary to think up interesting things to put in the publication I am writing for. This profound sentiment led me to try something new last month: to obtain all the documented information I could find regarding a trade token. I went through my Los Angeles box (location chosen for researching convenience) and chanced upon a piece not yet listed by Album: Louisville/Liquor/House/L. Kleinberger/Prop./Los Angeles. Good for/5¢/Drink (Octagonal, aluminum, 26mm with beaded circles enclosing legend). My first choice for the location of source material was the Los Angeles City Library-Downtown Branch, and an imposing place it turned out to be. It's worth a visit just for the architecture and statuary. It also has a Californiana collection that must rival that of U.C.L.A. I was advised at the information desk that I had a choice of places to look: The California Subject Index of the Mary E. Foy California Room in the History Department; the photograph index (to historical photographs); or the old city directories in the business department. After some exploring, I settled on the last of these, making a guess that Mr. Kleinberger would be shown in either the 1890 or 1900 directories for the City of Los Angeles. I hit right on with the 1900 Directory, and it proved to be the very first listing of either his name or his business. I immediately found that Mr. K. was known as Louie, though his true first name as shown in later directories was Eli. His saloon (as described in later directories) was located at 115 East Main (sic).

This address, for the benefit of out-of-city readers, is now Parker Center, headquarters of the Los Angeles Police Department. I also was given the 1900 edition of the Directory of Home Telephone and Telegraph Company (246 S. Hill St.), in which I discovered that Mr. Kleinberger's home address was 1026 S. Bonnie Brae, and his telephone number was A 1546 (by this time Los Angeles had a functioning dial system). The 1908 Edition of the City Directory confused the issue by showing the business address as 115 South Main (I'm still not sure which address was correct, but suspect the latter). Obviously, an address on East Main isn't possible, and the South Main address was repeated for many years. In going through the old business directories, there is much to distract the reader. I found that the Las Vegas and Tonopah Railroad Co. (in 1907) offered sleepers to the heart of Nevada's Gold Districts, from L. A. to Beatty, Rhyolite, Goldfield, and Tonopah. I found (in many of the directories) advertisements for the Boston Dry Goods Store at 239 S. Broadway, whose huge sign can still be seen on the side of the original building at the specified location, advising of the availability of things like dry goods and cloaks just inside the front door. The 1892 edition of the Directory announced the availability of Wells Fargo & Co's Express, corner of Main & Arcadia. The same edition told me of a business called the Los Angeles Rubber Stamp Co. (G.W. Randall), H. A. Osgood Mgr., Mfrs. of rubber stamps, stencils, badges, etc., 224 West First near Broadway (now the Los Angeles Times headquarters). For the outcome of the Kleinberger story: continued next issue!

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July, 1977  
Issue #68

John M. Barnes  
Editor

NEXT MEETING-ANNIVERSARY: Yes, really a Big Deal. We're going to celebrate our twentieth year of existance, and celebrate where CATC was founded. I refer to the home of Edrick Miller, 3257 Idaho Lane, Costa Mesa (Phone 714/549-4379). This special meeting will commence about 2:00 PM on Sunday, July 17, 1977, and I surely hope that everyone will be on hand to enjoy it. Needless to say, some special surprises are planned.

If you have on file the July, 1971 issue of Token Topics, you will find printed therein one of Bob Ritterband's fine hand-drawn maps which will show you how to reach the meeting. In any event, here are instructions: Take the San Diego Freeway from Los Angeles to Orange County, and use the Harbor Blvd. offramp. At Harbor Blvd., turn right (south) and proceed one block to Gisler Ave. Turn right (west) and drive approximately  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles to Dakota. At Dakota, turn right (north) and proceed a very short distance to Missouri. At Missouri, turn left (west) for a block or so and you will find Idaho Lane. Turn left (south) and you're there...the Miller house is on the west side of the street. If you experience problems, Ed would be glad to bail you out if you telephone him at his number as shown above.

As a central feature of our commemoration, the CATC Board of Directors has approved the issue of a commemorative token, which will be supplied by Bob Ritterband through his business connection. I understand that it will be in plastic, and as such, it should guarantee our group immortality. Details of distribution are not yet confirmed, but I consider that every CATC member should receive one without charge. So, those of you who cannot make the big celebration meeting please stand by for receipt of one of them within a reasonable time.

MAY MINUTES: Our last meeting was held at the Sherman Oaks home of your Editor, and was attended by members Bob Carter, Andy Crusen, Steve Alpert, Ken Smith, Roland Atwood, Bob Kubach, John Barnes, Virginia Barnes, Kirk Smith, Larry Elman, Les Hawthorne, Frank Roselinski, and Elaine Willahan. Guests present were Eleanor Smith, Harriet Carter, Byron McClaflin, and Richard F. Lebold. The(latter)two gentlemen are officers of the Numismatic Association of Southern California (to which CATC belongs), and had desired to see us in action. The attending membership of CATC learned that founding member Roland Atwood, now the world's leading collector of Sambo's tokens, was the subject of a front-page article in the April, 1977 issue of Tiger Tales, the Sambo's company magazine. The article went into detail about the difficulties Roland was having in acquiring all of the new issues when Sambo's opens an average of three new restaurants each week, as is standard these days. Les Hawthorne provided us with a stimulating lecture and slide show resulting from his several lengthy visits there. Your editor was particularly impressed with a detailed essay on the extraction of rare earths, a subject which is unusual. Finally, member Virginia Barnes presented her choince chocolate cake and yes..the cheesecake too. What a feast your editor had! He almost lost interest in token trading for a minute or two!

AUGUST AVA CONVENTION IN CARSON CITY: Exciting details on other side.

THE BIG CONVENTION: The May, 1977 Fare Box carried a full page on the big get-together, but for the benefit of any of our members who might not also be AVA members, I shall make a summary of the Fare Box article, plus additional information sent to me by Convention Chairman Hal V. Dunn. The event will be held on August 12, 13, and 14 at the Ormsby House in Carson City. Hal has recommended arriving on Thursday evening (the 11th) in order to have first crack at the goodies in the bourse, which opens on Friday morning. The auction will be on Friday and Saturday; banquet is Saturday evening, and tour (to Virginia City) is Sunday morning. Bourse tables cost \$15.00 (without cases, which are available @ \$5.00 each)...certainly a good bargain for anyone with something to sell. The members' preregistration fee is \$18.00, which includes the Virginia City tour, tour token, plus something called a Basque Banquet which sounds wonderful. Banquet speaker will be Mr. Jan Benson, an authority on the early history of the Virginia and Truckee Railroad. Your Editor recommends, if you haven't already done it, that you send your fees to Hal at P. O. Box 114, Carson City, Nevada 89701. Hotel reservations, which cost \$20.00 nightly and up, should be made by August 1.

For the benefit of anyone who hasn't experienced this area of Nevada before: it is one of the most historic locations in the United States, with a feeling of authenticity not often found in historic sites. There is so much to do that a week would not be adequate. So, please do come...and also experience some late night swap sessions that you won't forget!

THE EDITOR AS RESEARCHER: PART II In the last issue, the Editor began by taking you through the tortuous passageways of research procedure. I made mistakes because of typographic errors in the original material, particularly with regard to the address of Mr. Kleinberger's saloon. All directories after that of 1900 show the address as 115 South Main, which on second examination I found to be the present-day site of a very uninteresting parking lot. In the often crumbling directories I began to notice some changes as the years went by. In 1909 Louie was joined by Victor G. Kleinberger & Co. (A son?), Real Estate, 356 South Spring. In 1912 the name of Issac Kleinberger, manager, of 721 West First, was added to the directory. Louis also moved his home from South Bonnie Brae to 675 South Vermont. The Directory of 1913 revealed that Issac had become manager of the Kleinberger Ladies' Tailoring Co. 1915 was a banner year for the rapidly-growing Kleinberger family: I found that Aida was book keeper at Issac's Tailoring Company; Albert appeared for the first time without notation of occupation; Mrs. Gladys Kleinberger was a Christian Science practitioner; Victor, Issac, and "E. Louis" also continued to appear. The year 1916 revealed that Albert was in the mortgage loan business, and also that Ida was a secretary. Raymond Kleinberger showed as a student in 1917. In 1918 (by now grown in directory thickness from two inches to six inches) for the first time the saloon was not mentioned..only Louie. In 1919-how tantalizing-the directory is not in the library. The same situation prevailed for 1920, so you eager readers won't know what happened to the saloon during this crucial prohibition period. All I know is that I found that in 1921 Louis had joined the Kleinberger & Co. firm of (son?) Albert, which business sold furniture and clothing at 405-407 North Main. What an unromantic ending for an early-day Los Angeles saloon keeper! I couldn't bring myself to wade through any more directories, particularly because further listings would be outside of the scope of the numismatic research. There were certainly some other interesting avenues to explore, which I didn't do for lack of time. Maybe I could have found a photograph of the Liquor House in Library files. Maybe Louie advertised in the newspapers (also available in central library). Maybe I could search the L. A. phone book of today for the Kleinberger name and see if I could find a descendent who would assist me with an oral history and family records. In researching, you're never through!

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September, 1977  
Issue #69

JOHN M. BARNES  
Editor

**SEPTEMBER MEETING:** Once again this year member Frank Roselinsky has kindly allowed CATC to meet at his attractive home. The meeting is to be held on Sunday, September 18, 1977 at approximately 1:30 PM. Frank lives at 13213 Aetna Street, Van Nuys in the San Fernando Valley. To get there, go on the Ventura Freeway to the Coldwater Canyon offramp and exit, proceeding north on Coldwater to Oxnard Street. Turn west on Oxnard and go only a short distance to Atoll. Turn north and go only one block; whereupon you will find yourself on Frank's short stretch of Aetna. Frank has a telephone if you are lost on the way: 781-5509. At the meeting we will review events of the Carson City AVA Convention, plus do just a little trading. While I'm on the subject: how about bringing a token-collecting friend to CATC to check us out? I have mentioned before that I would like to see more guests/potential members attending our meetings, and you are the only people who can make it come true. It's your association: Keep it lively and growing.

**JULY MEETING:** Our July meeting was held at the beautiful Costa Mesa home of founding member Edrick Miller, at which time we celebrated the twentieth anniversary of CATC. The ceremonies were presided over by accomplished MC Bob Ritterband, who presented all members present with the commemorative token (see below). The first token was presented to founding member Roland Atwood, who was also awarded a life membership in CATC in recognition of his many accomplishments in the token field. Roland was also given as recognition of his future big interest a bronze plaque with the Sambo's logo set in its center. Outstanding home made refreshments were provided to members by gracious hostess Pat Miller (I am beginning to think of CATC as a gourmet experience). Attending members were: Steve Alpert, Roland Atwood, John Barnes, Virginia Barnes, Robert Carter, Andy Crusen, Robert Kubach, Edrick Miller, Robert Ritterband, Claire Smith, F. Gordon Smith, Ken Smith (the third of three surviving founding members), Kirk Smith, Elaine Willahan, and Robert Wolf. Guests present were Harriet Carter, Pat Miller, and Eleanor Smith.

**THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY TOKEN:** For those of you who were unable to attend the July meeting, it is our pleasure to enclose the special token struck to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the founding of the California Association of Token collectors. The first one struck was awarded to founding member Roland C. Atwood upon the occasion of his being awarded the only honorary life membership ever authorized by our organization.

I am reminded that any person who should wish extra specimens may have them by sending 25 cents for each piece plus a self-addressed stamped envelope to Association Secretary Elaine Willahan, whose address appears on the cover of this letter. Come to think of it, I'd better give it: 516 W. 99th Street, Los Angeles 90044.

**AVA CONVENTION RESUME:** The CATC turnout for this good convention in Carson City was, as expected, large....some nineteen persons, plus new member Steve Tureen of San Diego who joined at the convention.

In fact, CATC can be proud of having made up nearly one third of the attendance. Seen at the convention from our group were: Steve Album, Roland Atwood, John Barnes, Virginia Barnes, Robert Carter, Andy Crusen, Larry Elman, Ralph Freiberg, Toby Frisbee, Robert Kubach, John Nicolosi, Joel Reznick, Robert Ritterband, Frank Roselinsky, Arthur Smith, Jack Smith, Bill Whalen, Sue Whalen, and Elaine Willahan. DID our sharp-eyed secretary miss anyone else? If so, let us know.

On arrival at the convention hotel, the Ormsby House, we were presented with our registration packets containing agenda, local interest pamphlets, the personal token of Convention Chairman Hal V. Dunn, a special token for the Saturday night banquet, and, last but not least, the convention token good for one (bus) fare from Carson City to Virginia City. From my point of view, it is difficult to imagine a more romantic location for an AVA convention than Carson City, the focal point of Nevada railroads (now vanished) and the capital established during the nineteenth century gold and silver boom. The home of the most famous U. S. Mint (now an excellent museum), the city has during the past thirty years languished in attractive obscurity. In the past decade, the gambling boom has spread to Carson City in a big way, causing the expansion of small casinos and the construction of new ones. The best example of the latter is the only high rise building in Carson City: the Ormsby House. Named after an old and departed hostelry just down Carson Street, it is a building entirely out of character with the remainder of this Victorian town. Constructed in modern American square-block ugly style, it is full of "Old West" decorator touches such as wood paneling on the elevator doors, and also has an inexplicable Greek-Pillar portico directly in front. For all of the strange taste in decorations, it was indeed a comfortable place to stay with good service, plus a restaurant where one can have really good food.

The bourse room was just the correct size for our relatively small convention, and was filled to overflowing with dealers' tables piled high with a confusing array of interesting things. A table was also set aside for collector trading (I like this idea). Since my trading time at the bourse was limited, I was annoyed by one limitation that I have noticed at an earlier convention. This is the custom of holding the AVA Auction right in the bourse room, to the great detriment of both the auction and the dealers and the audience who are unwillingly divided between these two important events. Can't the AVA afford a separate room for the auction? Perhaps some of us can take this matter up with the powers that be. Your editor welcomes any correspondence on this subject.

Saturday night was the cause for considerable liquid refreshment to be consumed just before the Basque Banquet, which was indeed huge, with three or four different kinds of meat and all the trimmings. The speaker of the evening, Mr. Jan Benson, presented his slides on the history of the Virginia and Truckee railroad, then made many cogent comments on current efforts to preserve the relics of this historical monument, such as the (square) roundhouse and rolling stock. Mr. Benson, president of the local rail historical society, has a tough job because everything is owned by someone different, and much is endangered by the elements and the current development boom in western Nevada. Sunday morning's excursion (yes, the transportation tokens were collected by the driver) revealed something that really surprised me: the revival of the Virginia and Truckee Railroad, which is now operating with about two miles of track and a steam locomotive on the old road bed. What a thrill to ride behind that 1916 engine and hear the steam whistle again in America's most famous mining town. I only wish you had all been there!

LANCASTER FLEA MARKET: Is to be held at the Lancaster, California fairgrounds on October 2, per Secretary Elaine Willahan.

# TOKEN TOPICS

of the  
**CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION of TOKEN COLLECTORS**

November, 1977  
Issue #70

John M. Barnes  
Editor

**DUES!** Our very alert Secretary, Elaine, has reminded me that 1978 dues are now appreciated. How about putting \$2.00 (best bargain of the year) in an envelope and sending it to: Mrs. Elaine Willahan, 516 West 99th Street, Los Angeles, California 90044. Of course, if you're going to be present at this November meeting, you can bring the funds with you. For those of you who live far away: Think of the joy of receiving six more action-packed issues of Token Topics, then don't hesitate to contact Elaine.

**SEPTEMBER MINUTES:** In our last meeting, we again enjoyed the hospitality of Frank and Norma Roselinsky in their beautiful home in Van Nuys. Not only was Norma a great baker of cheesecake (and several other goodies), but she refused the Association's offer of the statutory five dollars to reimburse her...we all thank the Roselinskys for the pleasant afternoon. The afternoon's program was also given by Frank, who has a long-standing interest in the history of movies and radio. His specialty is the collection of books about these subjects, and he had them all laid out for the membership to browse through. Your editor was able to indulge in a little nostalgia for 1930's radio! Frank says that he gets many of his books through gifts, the Nostalgia Book Club, and the constant haunting of Pickwick Book Stores.

**NOVEMBER MEETING:** Our next meeting will be held at the castle of Secretary Elaine Willahan, whose address is given above, on Sunday, November 20, 1977, at about 1:30 PM. To get there: Take the Century offramp from the Harbor Freeway and proceed to the west of the freeway about two blocks; you should easily find her house. We should have a busy time: A board meeting will be held just before the general meeting. At the latter, we will be having elections. Finally, and most interesting, we will hear professor and author Stephen Alpert discuss amusement and vending machine tokens. Steve has elevated these humble tokens from bottom-of-the-junkbox status to a respectable place in numismatics, and I hope we will have a large turnout to hear his interesting talk.

**SEPTEMBER ATTENDANCE:** Members present at our last meeting were: Roland Atwood, Steve Alpert, John Barnes, Virginia Barnes, Andy Crusen, Robert Kubach, Frank Roselinsky, Ken Smith, and Elaine Willahan. Guests were: Norma Roselinsky and Eleanor Smith.

**ANNIVERSARY MEETING PHOTOGRAPHS:** During our last meeting, Elaine displayed color photographs of the twentieth anniversary meeting at Edrick Miller's home. Your editor asked that these be made available to the membership, and Elaine consented. If anyone who has not received prints enclosed in this issue of Token Topics desires same, please be in touch with Elaine...she will announce the very nominal cost and send them.

**EDITOR'S SWAN SONG:** This will be the last issue of this publication that I will be editing (at least, for a while). I think it's good to get some new ideas, and I am sure that with the pool of talent we have in our association that the next editor will be an interesting writer and effective administrator as well. I have enjoyed my tenure of two years and opportunity to talk to a captive audience about my numismatic thoughts. There is just one urgent thought that I would like to leave with you: our organization needs

new members, and you are the only people who can recruit them. Do yourself a favor—and I mean everyone—bring a person interested in tokens to one of our meetings. We have a wonderful thing going, and we want others to share it with us.

CATALINA REVISITED: The May, 1977 issue of this publication carried an article which mentioned in some detail a Catalina token of the Island Buffet, B. Rosin Prop., Avalon//Good for ONE drink. (Album LA 040 D, Kappen unlisted) This token, which happens to be in your editor's collection, was described in connection with member Bob Ritterband's tour to Avalon in April. By coincidence, the same Bob Ritterband happened to know several of Mr. Rosin's children, with whom he attended school in Los Angeles. The full name of the proprietor of the Island Buffet was Bernat Rosin, a Czechoslovakian immigrant to the United States. Mr. Rosin founded the Hermosa Hotel in Avalon, which was presumably the location of the Buffet. The Rosin family also had a home in Hollywood, on Wilton, and normally summered in Catalina. Mr. Rosin was energetic, and also had hostelries in the Los Angeles area. Bernat's oldest son Alexander was allegedly the first Caucasian child born on the island. There were other children, too...Ethel, Victor, Elmer (the founder of Highland Springs Resort in San Bernardino County), and Stanley (connected with Del Tahquitz of Palm Springs). The Catalina business was founded in the 1890's...quite a while ago. Bob mentioned that Bernat Rosin's granddaughter is today a grandmother!

THE BOOK REVIEW: The 746-page catalog of California trade tokens (California Tokens) by Professor Charles V. Kappen has, at long last been released. Let me assure you now: it was worth the wait! It is a wonderful addition to existing literature on California tokens...how fortunate we are to have two catalogs to cover our beautiful State. The outstanding virtue of this reference is that it is so easy to use. The listing is alphabetical by town/locality...a very helpful attribute for a book which is used so often. I was also intrigued by the inclusion of so much material under the definition of token. Mr. Kappen incorporates such things as game counters, pay phone, vending, mirror cards, and poker-chip style pieces. His definition is so broad that I even found included in the listing items which are really of a souvenir nature, such as the "Eighteen Wooden Cents" pieces of the Numismatic Association of Southern California. As an amusing sidelight, I also took exception to the inclusion of Indio5, a souvenir of the Indio Date Festival which was sold from vending machines (and maybe still is) in exchange for a quarter in the late 1960's. Incidentally, \$5.00 is quite a high valuation for a piece which was made and sold in quantity so recently. I think, too, that I detect some key chain medals in the listing that don't fit Kappen's stated definition of a token. But, in spite of the foregoing comments, I would rather have the largest possible scope. In connection with this, I noted the gratifying inclusion of the Anillo restrikes in their proper order, whether original specimens are known or not. The catalog, unfortunately, shows no designation of rarity (or antiquity, for that matter) for any tokens. The user has to rely on prices for rarity and his own judgement for antiquity. The pricing structure, as Kappen has noted, is automatically subject to criticism. \$3.00 seems a little high to pay for a scarce old Los Angeles, San Diego, etc. piece, but I suppose after dealers have purchased the catalog they will readjust their prices upward and we will just have to pay. On the other hand, \$30.00 seems too cheap for a rare saloon token from a rare town, so it's hard to be consistent in this criticism. I advise the reader of this article to run, not walk, to the nearest coin dealer intelligent enough to stock this catalog and spend the bargain \$13.50 that it costs. Professor Kappen is to be congratulated on the results of the years of effort he has expended to bring this magnificent production to collectors of tokens of our fair state.